

Remarks

The abstract of the disclosure has been amended and it is believed that the objection should no longer apply. Also, the claims have been amended to overcome the objections.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-9 as being unpatentable over Schwartz (U.S. 4,007,993) in view of Bernstein (5,641,257), contrary to the Examiner's statement that Schwartz discloses a cross clamping device, the device shown by Schwartz is a device capable of T-coupling two pipes by clamping the pipes in the device, but it is not capable of cross clamping two bars. In Schwartz, the pipes do not cross because one terminates at the sidewall of the other pipe to form a "T" shape.

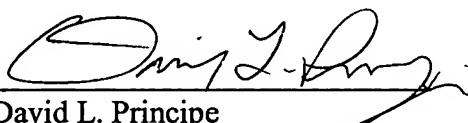
Also, the Examiner interprets Schwartz in a way that the flat parts of a second gripping member 11 besides a channel part 21 of the second gripping member 11 correspond to the first and the second clamps of the present invention. These parts belong to one physical unit (the second gripping member 11) and are arranged in a non-relocatable position to each other fixedly interconnected by the channel part 21 of the second gripping member 11. Therefore, these parts are not capable of moving towards each other, and therefore, they are not capable of clamping a first bar between each other.

Moreover, contrary to the Examiner's interpretation, the device shown by Schwartz does not appear to disclose that a second bar, which is rotated by ninety degrees to the first bar, is clamped between said flat parts of the second gripping member 11 and the channel part 21 of the first gripping member 11. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's interpretation of Schwartz is not only incorrect but also inoperable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not met its burden of establishing a prima facie case for obviousness because Schwartz in view of Bernstein does not disclose all of the limitations of the claims.

It is believed that all of the issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed. Please charge any fees due with this response to Deposit Account No. 08-2442.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 5, 2005

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